

# ON BUCKINGHAM'S RISING

Richard III (1452–1485), King of England (1483–1485)

to John Russell (–1494), Bishop of Lincoln (1480–1494) and Lord Chancellor (1483–1485)

22 October 1483

Right Reverend Father in God, right trusty and well-beloved, We greet you well, and in most heartiest wise thank you for the manifold presents that your servant on your behalf has presented unto Us at this, Our being here. Which, We assure you, We took and accepted with good heart, and so We have cause.

And whereas We, by God's grace, intend briefly to advance Us towards Our rebel and traitor, the Duke of Buckingham,<sup>1</sup> to resist and withstand his malicious purpose, as lately by Our other letters We certified you Our mind more at large.

For which cause it behooves Us to have Our Great Seal here. We being informed that for such infirmities and diseases as you sustain, not may in your person to your case conveniently come unto Us with the same. Wherefore desire and never the less charge you that, forthwith upon the sight of this, you safely do cause the same, Our Great Seal, to be sent unto Us, and such of the office of Our Chancery as by your wisdom shall be thought necessary; receiving these, Our letters, for your sufficient discharge in that behalf. Given under Our signet at Our city of Lincoln the xii day of October.

We would most gladly you came yourself if that you may, and if you may not, We pray you not to fail but to accomplish in all diligence Our said commandment to send Our Seal, incontinent upon the sight hereof, as We trust you, with such as you trust and the officers pertaining, to attend with it; praying you to ascertain Us of your news.

Here, loved be God, is all well and truly determined, and for to resist the malice of him that had best cause to be true, the Duke of Buckingham, the most untrue creature living, whom, with God's grace, We shall not be long till that We will be in that party's, and subdue his malice. We assure you there was never false traitor better pervade for, as this bearer, Gloucester, shall show you.

Henry Ellis, ed. *Original Letters Illustrative of English History*, Second Series (London: Harding and Lepard, 1827), I:159–160.

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<sup>1</sup> Henry Stafford (1455–1483), Duke of Buckingham